

# The Tidings

Gillingham Baptist Church, Green Street,  
Gillingham, Kent. ME7 5TJ



January/February 2026

**Stay in touch:**

Issue 29



[GBCKent19@gmail.com](mailto:GBCKent19@gmail.com)



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Welcome to our monthly community newsletter from Gillingham Baptist Church (Kent). Read on for a blog from our Minister the Rev. Stephen Greasley, as well as an overview of all our services and activities happening this January & February.

## About Us

Situated near to the High Street in Gillingham (Kent), we're a friendly, welcoming, multinational worshipping community with a heart to share Jesus and serve the people of Gillingham. Find out more about us on our website:



[gbc-kent.org.uk](http://gbc-kent.org.uk)

Rev. Stephen Greasley



## Blog - A Quilted Labour of Love...

On the 17 December the Kent 'Speak Their Name' memorial suicide quilt was installed in our worship space. This is a real labour of love created by family members in Kent who have lost loved ones to suicide (see Page 5). It is a painful reminder that tragedy can befall any of us. The quilt will remain on display with us until 14 January when it moves on to Canterbury. If you haven't yet had the opportunity of studying this beautiful and very moving work of love, then can I urge you to do so. What impacted me most was the number of young people from all ethnic backgrounds who felt compelled to end their lives. It was truly heart breaking.

When I was told that the quilt would be with us during Christmas, I was disappointed. It seemed to clash with the celebrations and light heartedness of the season. It brought a very different mood to events. But, as I reflected on this more, I came to see it in a different way, because the actual events of that first Christmas were in fact very grim. Homelessness, fear and terror are all part of what the Holy Family endured – not to mention Mary giving birth in such inauspicious surroundings. Moreover, for many people in Medway and throughout the world, life is a real struggle and hardship. And those realities don't change just because it happens to be Christmas.

The real message of Christmas is that God comes down to our messy and hurting world. He doesn't shy away from pain and suffering but rather immerses himself in the harsh realities of life. The Memorial quilt might disturb my fluffy idea of Christmas, but it reminds us that God stands with us in our grief and strives to bring renewed hope for those who are grieving and for those struggling with poor mental health.

**Gillingham Baptist Church,**  
Green Street, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 5TJ



# Come and Join us

We'd love to see you at one of our services.

## Sunday - 11 January

10.30am - Communion Service

## Sunday - 18 January

10.30am - Morning Worship with Believers Baptism

## Sunday - 25 January

10.30am - Morning Worship

Preacher: Sarah Rai

## Sunday - 1 February

10.30am - All Age Service

## Sunday - 8 February

10.30am - Communion Service led by Sarah Rai

## Sunday - 15 February

10.30am - Morning Worship

Preacher: Ayodeji Ibitoye

## Sunday - 22 February

10.30am - Morning Worship with Guest Speaker from the Sat 7 Mission Organisation.

Prayer  
ministry is  
available after  
most of our  
Sunday  
Services.

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# Prayer & Bible Study at GBC

At Gillingham Baptist Church we prioritise prayer and Bible Study and have a variety of different opportunities for both throughout the week and the Church year. Some activities only take place during school term time so please check before leaving home.

**Sundays** - we aim to meet before every Sunday service at 10am in our designated church 'Prayer Room'.

**Wednesdays** - Lunchtime prayer meeting every week from 12noon-12.40pm in the Lighthouse. 'Prayer and Bible Study' in the Lighthouse on a Wednesday evening every fortnight from 7.30pm.

**Thursdays** - Good News @ 10 - Bible Study meets alternate weeks at 10.00am-11.30am in the Lighthouse.

**Fridays** - 'Half nights' of prayer periodically throughout the Church year in the Lighthouse.

## Other activities:

We have a number of 'Home Groups' that meet throughout the week during the day and evenings.

The Borstal fellowship usually meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.00am at Borstal Village Hall.

For further information please contact our Church office.

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# Weekly Activities

We run a number of mid-week activities. There is normally no weekday activities during school holidays.

## Monday

**STEPS:** 10 to 11.15am: A play and chat group for mums, dads and carers with their young ones (under fives). **Returns on 12 January.**

## Tuesday

**BORSTAL FELLOWSHIP:** Meet at Borstal Village Hall once a month between 10-12noon. Everyone welcome. **Next meeting at 10am on 27 January.**

## Wednesday

**FRIENDSHIP MORNING:** Everyone is welcome to come between 10 & 11.45am to enjoy company, tea/coffee and biscuits in a relaxed atmosphere.

**PRAYER TIME:** 12 noon in the Lighthouse. Everyone welcome.

**BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER** ~ Fortnightly at 7.30pm in the Lighthouse. **Next meeting on 21 January.**

## Thursday

**GOOD NEWS @ TEN** (to 11.30am). Alternate weeks. **Next meeting on 22 January.**

**CRAFT TIME:** 10 to 12 noon: Alternate weeks.

## Friday

**CAP DEBT CENTRE DROP IN:** 10am to 12 noon in the Upper Room.

**1st GILLINGHAM BOYS' BRIGADE and GIRLS' ASSOCIATION:**

6.15pm Anchors & Juniors 7.30pm Company & Seniors. **Returns on 16 January.**

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# GBC Community News



The 'Speak Their Name' Memorial Quilt is currently on display in the Worship Space until 14 January. It is a beautiful creation and is a true & heartfelt labour of love.

## GBC Worship Songs on Spotify

Looking for a Christian music streaming playlist? Our GBC Worship Song Playlist is now on Spotify especially for you! Worship and praise our living God in the comfort of your own home, the car or even on the school run. Do you have any favourite Worship songs? Please let us know as we look to expand our playlist. Thank you.



GBC WORSHIP SONGS  
PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY

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# VOLUNTEER WITH US



**Medway  
Volunteer  
Workshop**

Collecting and preparing for:  
**Tools with a Mission**

**JOIN US  
NOW!**

**Unit iB10, Elm Court Village, Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 3JQ**

Can you spare a few hours each week? Do you have practical skills you'd like to put to good use? We are always on the look out for new volunteers. We are open Monday to Friday and run two shifts per day (9-1pm) or (12-4pm). Please get in touch today!

medwayvolunteerworkshop

mvw781@gmail.com

medwayvolunteerworkshop.co.uk

01634 390400



Medway Volunteer Workshop is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).  
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